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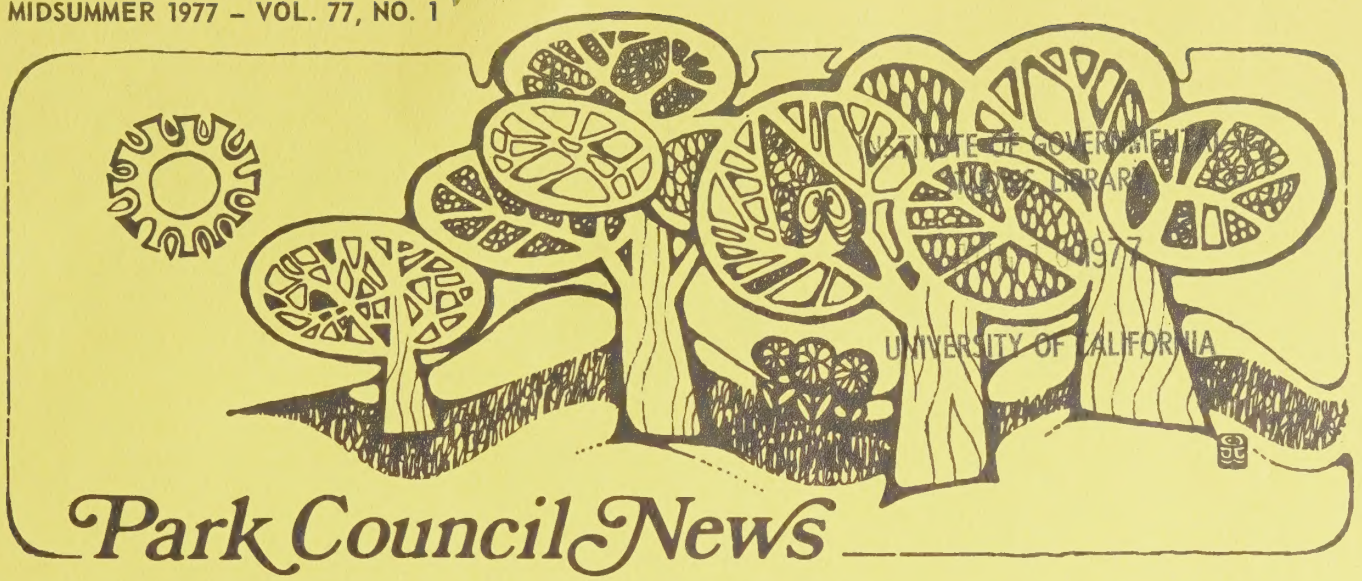

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DEDICATION OF GEORGE MILLER, JR. MEMORIAL REGIONAL SHORELINE - THE REALIZATION OF A DREAM

by Lucretia Edwards, President,
Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Committee

This is a message of encouragement and cheer for all of you who cherish hopes that a beloved piece of land can be preserved by becoming a park, and who work and plan and wonder if your efforts are worth while.

Dreams *can* come true. The proof of this apparently rash statement is the dedication on June 11 of the George Miller, Jr. Regional Shoreline, at Point Richmond in Contra Costa County, as the latest of the East Bay Regional Park District's accomplishments. There is no *one* prescription for success. Each group of park lovers will write out its own prescription. Therefore it is perhaps presumptious to give you our formula; but these were the ingredients for the successful effort to bring the George Miller Jr. Regional Shoreline into being.

First, you must have an idea or project (in this case a beautiful, if abused, area of hills and flatland on the San Francisco Bay shore) in which you believe, and for which you will endure ridicule, humiliation, frustration, and years of perseverance and hard work.

Second, you must have an inspired leader. Those of us who could see the Point Richmond area as a potentially superb shoreline park were lucky in having Louise Hammond as our commanding general. A small, blonde strategist, she waged campaigns that were always witty, elegant, and original. Her courage never failed despite repeated discouragements and she could always rally her troops with ideas that were fun rather than hostile.

Third, we were blessed in having a small but inspired local publication, "The Point Counter Point". Under the multi-talented direction of writer-artist-editor Donna Roselins, this medium provided a strong and continuing network of communication through which our neighborhood members, and subscribers outside our city, were kept informed.

Having a friendly neighborhood legislator interested in your project is an asset not to be sniffed at, and over the years Assemblyman John Knox provided legislative advice and assistance, without which our efforts could not have succeeded.

Gratitude must be given to the EBRPD board of directors, which was willing to listen, to look, and to change its mind. When this area was first proposed as an addition to the District, only Paul Badger, our West Contra Costa County representative, supported the idea. But vigorous and persistent nagging (and some nice parties) induced other board members, one by one, to visit Point Richmond, and to perceive the potential of the area as its admirers saw it.

At last, the vote of 6 to 1 *opposed* to the park was changed to 6 to 1 in *favor*! For their sensitivity and response, we are indeed indebted to the board members, past and present.

The District's administration and staff were not originally enthusiastic about the area because of the many problems connected with it. They must also be given great credit for the hard work and creative problem-solving they applied to a situation that posed difficulties at every turn. Apparently insurmountable problems of money-juggling, land acquisition, engineering, design, and landscaping were attacked and conquered.

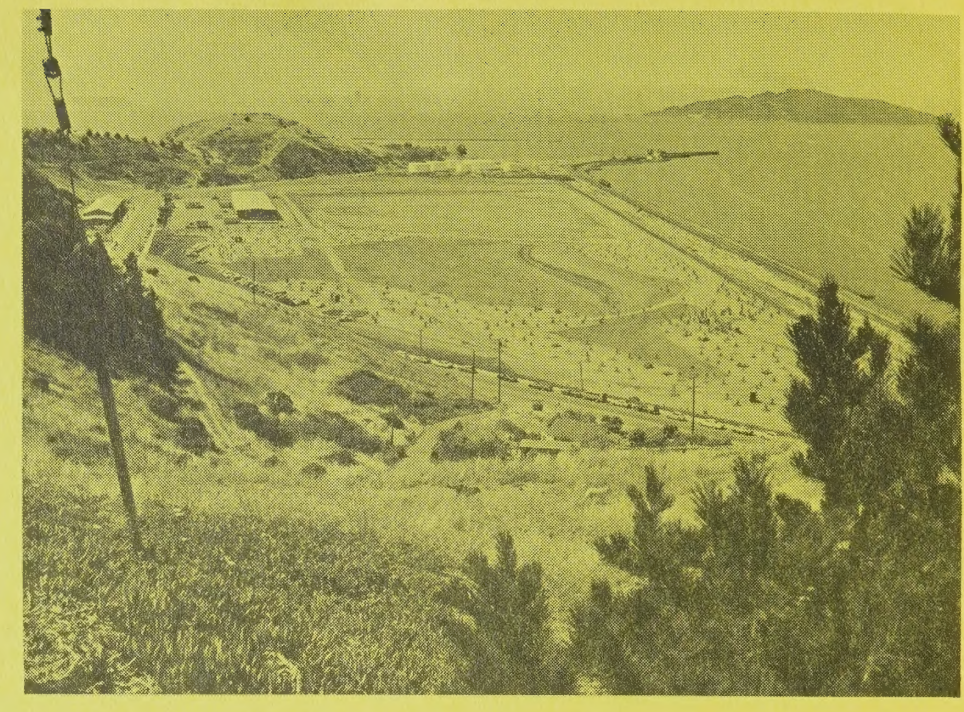
But the most important and powerful ingredient of all was the participation of literally hundreds of people, in our city and outside it, who rallied to the challenge of saving this uniquely beautiful bit of the San Francisco Bay Shoreline and made it available for public use and enjoyment. There were people who spoke before planning commissions, park commissions, city councils, the board of supervisors, PTA meetings, service clubs, scout councils,

Contra Costa Park Council is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions ($2 a year for students; $5 a year and up for individuals; $10 a year and up for organizations) are tax-deductible.

and the EBRPD board. Others wrote letters and articles, and designed and distributed posters and brochures. Some planned parties and raised money for more parties; some opened their homes for the parties or prepared food for them. Hikes were led; children were taken climbing on the hills, making lists of wild flowers, flying kites, building sand castles, and roasting hot dogs. There were hundreds of willing and cheerful people and hundreds of hours of loving effort over thirteen long years.

To all these people go the honor and glory of this dream come true, and this is truly the most exciting part of the formula of success. For this is a park that people wanted, and though they were told it was impossible, it is a park that people worked hard enough to get. And it will be a park that people will enjoy. Please come and share in the enjoyment!

(Editor's note: Lucretia and Tom Edwards did the greatest thing of all. They bought Nicholl Knob, the hill with some of the most beautiful views in the Bay Area to save it from development. To the Edwards should go the greatest thanks, for without their work and their risk the "people's park at Pt. Richmond" would not exist.)



Spectacular views of the Bay and the City delight the visitor to George Miller, Jr., Reg. Shoreline.

TWO PARKS - EAST AND WEST

Two parks in Contra Costa County had dedications in late Spring. On May 21st, the new solar facility at Contra Loma was officially opened. This remarkable installation, done in cooperation with the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., may provide up to 70% of the heating and hot water needed for the multipurpose building at the park. It will show the public the virtues - and the possible pitfalls - of solar power. The Newsletter will run a major story on the facility in September. Meanwhile, go out to Contra Loma and swim this summer and have a look for yourself!

On June 11th, the George Miller Jr. Regional Shoreline was dedicated in a loving and joyful celebration of kiteflying, hiking, and just plain viewing. Mrs. George Miller, Jr., widow of the Congressman, was an active participant, flying kites with Assemblyman John Knox and the youngsters of the Richmond Recreation Department. Lucretia Edwards' article, elsewhere in the Newsletter, is a beautiful account of how this "people's park" came into existence.

LAST CHANCE FOR ANTIOCH'S SAND DUNES

Tom Torlakson, the able citizen of Antioch, teacher and past chairman of the local regional group of the Sierra Club, is a harried man these days. He is trying to preserve a small area of the fast diminishing Antioch Sand Dunes called "Little Corral" to save a rare biological habitat for its endangered species and to keep an access for people to the banks of the San Joaquin River.

Mr. Torlakson, meet Mrs. Edwards! Only Tom can't wait 13 years for his dream. He has one month.

Years ago, the Park Council members were interested in the extraordinary wild flowers, insects, and lizards of this remarkable area. Now, most of the dunes are gone, but one area survives - reasonably intact and readily available - for a price.

Mrs. Ethyl Sardis of Berkeley, a patient and delightful person, owns the 15 acre Little Corral. She has been very receptive to having the area preserved, but she also has an industrial buyer who has been pressing her for a decision for several months. Tom has until August 1st to raise $1,000 for an option to hold the property while red tape and operation plans of agencies are worked out.

The Antioch City Council had obtained a $303,000 Land and Water Conservation grant for the Stamm dunes property but recently voted to shift that grant to the Sardis' Little Corral site. Tom says that several funding approaches exist for the $165,000 needed to match the Federal grant for acquisition. Several agencies are being approached for "adoption" and operation of the area: the Regional Park District (on whose Master Plan the original dunes appeared), the State Parks Preserve system, and Fish and Game. Tom goes before EBRPD on July 19th.

If Tom and his Antioch Waterfront Committee raise the $1,000 for the option, PG&E has already said that it will lease its surrounding 10 acres

for a park. The Waterfront Committee is organizing Swim-a-thons and other events to raise money. Help them, please - and quickly! Send whatever donation you can to Antioch Waterfront Committee, c/o 3201 St. James Place, Antioch CA 94509.

By contributing, you can save: the last stretch of sand dunes on river shoreline in Contra Costa County; the habitat for a variety of rare plants and wildlife, including the Lange"s Metalmark Butterfly, the Antioch Dunes evening primrose, the Contra Costa Wallflower, a legless lizard, several rare species of insects, a small marsh and pretty beaches, and an access to the riverfront and fishing for all of us.

PARK COUNCIL LOSES APPEAL OVER TOWERS ON THE NORTH PEAK

Last August, the Park Council appealed to the Planning Commission the decision of the Board of Adjustment to grant a Land Use Permit for nine radio communication towers and eight equipment sheds on the North Peak of Mt. Diablo. We reported the story to you in the Winter Newsletter.

This May, in marathon sessions with the county staff, the various interests worked out a new policy for telecommunication towers in the county. We are not entirely satisfied with the policy, but under the difficult technological considerations involved, we have agreed to the terms.

The Planning Commission granted permits for only the existing five towers and a new tower for Standard Oil Co. There are numerous protective conditions. Also, the State Department of Parks and Recreation is proceeding with its plans for a consolidation study.

New impediments to the study and to the quality of this one-time wilderness area have emerged. First Century, a religious group from Vallejo, has filed with the Federal Communication Commission for a license to operate Channel 42 using North Peak for transmission. The Park Council strongly objects to this move. Mr. Knox LaRue, who has one tower that would be converted to television transmission, stated unequivocally to the Planning Commission that no television transmission was to occur on his towers on North Peak. Three days after our appeal was denied and the land use permit was valid, the application to use the North Peak was before the FCC. We feel that both the spirit and the intent of the permit have been violated, and we have expressed our concern to the county and to the state.

NEW CONCERN OVER THE PERIPHERAL CANAL

Governor Brown personally pressed negotiations with various competing water interests in order to make a compromise package to insure building of the peripheral canal. Senator Ruben Ayala (Dem. San Bernadino) carried the successful last minute legislation in the State Senate, declaring that "...with the passage of this legislation, a spirit of harmony among Californai water interests can prevail and make much easier the difficult task of winning Federal funding."

The harmony appears to be closer to discord than such statements would seem. Delta and Northern California agricultural interests, our County Board of Supervisors, and Senator Nejedly have condemned the action in no uncertain terms as damaging to Northern California interests.

The "compromise" is a series of protective assurances that would be built into Federal legislation to guarantee that enough water flows to protect water quality in the Delta and the Suisun marsh. However, as skeptics point out, it is in Southern California's interest to keep water quality in the Delta now as their intake pumps are located there. If the water is circulated around the Delta there is nothing but "legislative assurances" to protect it. The Newsletter points out that if damage occurs, we could always sue, but we recall that water suits over the Colorado River water have been floating in and out of Federal courts for over 50 years. We may not exist that long.

The Newsletter made inquiries of various environmental groups and found no consensus in and among them. Some knowledgeable persons favor the guarantees, pointing out that if adequate federal legislation is not forthcoming within three years, the current bill "self-destructs". Other persons, equally knowledgeable, say that the only thing that would be self-destructing would be our last cards in this bitter game for survival of the Delta and North Coast rivers.

The Park Council has no position on this latest maneuver, but we view it with a skeptical eye. For more information, talk to your supervisors and state legislators. We encourage you to write to Gov. Brown telling him of your concern.

The bill goes before the Assembly after the legislature reconvenes in August.

TWO INTERVIEWS

On a recent evening, the Newsletter staff had a pleasant chat with two gentlemen who must be among the most public spirited citizens in the county. In separate interviews, we talked with Fred Blumberg, who resigned for business reasons from the Board of Directors of East Bay Regional Park District early in the year, and with Walter Costa, who was choosen by the other directors to fill out Fred's term of office.

"All the times were high points," laughed Fred, in answer to our question of what were the special high points in his 12 years of service to the District and the citizens of Ward 6. "We knew that we were getting something done, we were accomplishing things, and I think that a lot more was done than was ever anticipated when the county voted to annex to the District in 1964."

"When I think of what has been done in that length of time, I feel a sense of accomplishment. But I don't want to talk about it; the reality of the parks says everything for me."

Fred is right - much has been accomplished. In the 1966-68 period, Contra Costa's first three

regional parks were developed and opened, and land was obtained for three more. Fred was president of the Board of Directors during much of the Master Plan process, which set the stage for park land acquisitions looking 20 years into the future. Today, there are at least 17 parks which are all or in part in the county.

This concerns Fred. "It is so easy to be carried away," he said, noting the acreage in parks in the county is more than the national average. He wonders if EBRPD should reduce its taxes, returning money to the people.

"I've been called a lot of names," he laughs, "but 'fiscally responsible' is the one I like best." Fred believes that public officials owe financial responsibility to the people, who should get their dollars' worth in performance.

After eight years with the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation Commission and 12 years with EBRPD, Fred is still active in park affairs. For several years the representative of EBRPD to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, he has been attending meetings weekly. "We are now in the hearing stages of planning for GGNRA. The National Park Service is doing a great job of listening. They learned a lot from our experiences, and Dick (Richard Trudeau, General Manager of EBRPD) has helped them quite a bit."

Our conversation ended with Fred's saying, "Come to our GGNRA hearings and see what we are doing!"

So, hail, Fred, but not farewell, as we know that you will always keep your interest in parks for the people.

"When I became director three months ago," says Walter Costa, former city councilman and mayor of Lafayette, I knew I had a lot to learn, but now I am finding that there is more than I ever thought there was to learn." He added that he had taken two helicopter trips all over the District and was planning a third "to get the feel of the shoreline areas."

Walt works hard. The Newsletter was fortunate to catch him on a night home, and we talked about his new position as director of a regional district. "It is different from being on the city council or our local planning commission in many ways. For one thing, it is so much larger, and the issues revolve around one purpose: parks, not many conflicting issues.

Walt is impressed with the dedication of the District to the preservation of the land. He gives high marks to the staff and also to his fellow directors. "It is a wonderful experience for me to see people of non-scientific backgrounds (only Howard Cogswell is a trained scientist) listening knowledgeably and carefully to what botanists and biologists are saying. Think of the restoration of land that is going on - Oyster Bay in San Leandro, for example, a garbage and refuse dump now. In 10 years, there will be groves of trees and meadows there - and a biologically dead water outflow will become a living marsh - in just 10 years! That's not a long time."

Citizens are involved with the District, too, he commented. "It is good to see citizens - laymen - concerned about these things and actively working with the District."

As an accomplished horseman and hiker, Walt has been interested in trails for many years. He helped to create the Lafayette Ridge Trail, now added to Briones Regional Park. His goal is to see the major parks linked by regional trails, especially those in Contra Costa County. The "Golden Loop" and the Lafayette-Moraga-Redwood trails will "hook things up", providing unexcelled recreational opportunities.

Walt knows that acquisitions cost a lot of money, but he believes that they are being handled well and have been envisioned in the Master Plan. His concern for the future is in maintenance. "We must be careful," he says, "to do things right, to create the kind of development that will be both the most satisfying yet the most economical." As a professional architect, Walt knows what he is talking about.

And then he waxed eloquent again, like so many people who first really "see" our Regional Park system. "The marvelous diversity of all of it - George Miller at Pt. Richmond with its incredible views and situation, sand castles at Alameda Beach, falcons at Sunol, the mines at Black Diamond, the restoration of Mt. Trashmore - there are so many variations of one basic thing, our dedication to the preservation of our land.

There are and will be many problems for EBRPD to solve, but with quiet, dedicated, and talented Walter Costa on the Board of Directors, we know that many, and perhaps most, of them will be solved.

THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING ME, AND I MUST GO-- JOHN MUIR

By Joann K. Johnson

John Muir was born in Scotland on April 21, 1838, emigrated to America at the age of 11, and through years of work and concern he changed the direction of a country, from one of a devastating attack on the environment to one of conservation and preservation of natural resources.

After he left the family home in Wisconsin at the age of 21, Muir's quest for knowledge led him to the University of Wisconsin. It was here that he discovered the world of natural science; but it was the wilderness, America's mountains and forests, that became the ultimate classroom that he explored and wrote about. On foot he explored Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. His walks covered thousands of miles from the Gulf of Mexico into Canada.

Muir was deeply moved and touched by the beauty and magnificence of the natural world he encountered--so much so that out of this experience grew the roots of his philosophy of conservation. "Wilderness is a necessity...not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of line", he wrote.

His treks continued throughout his life and took him through much of wilderness America, to Alaska, South America, Africa, India, the Orient and Australia. However, it was the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, and Yosemite Valley, in particular, that captured his heart. Entering the Yosemite high country in 1868 for the first time, he wrote, "It is by far the grandest of all the special temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter...the sanctum sanctorum of the Sierra".

Through Muir's unrelenting efforts as a writer and lobbyist for its preservation, Yosemite was designated as a National Park in 1890. He also was directly involved in the establishment of Sequoia, Mount Rainier, Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks.

Muir studied weather, woods, rocks, reptiles, animals and birds. He botanized, scrutinized and wrote of what he saw and learned, introducing others to the sensations of nature. It was his resolve to do what he could to make the wilderness better known so that future generations could cherish a common but fast-dwindling heritage.

People who supported Muir's conservationist philosophy helped him to found the Sierra Club in 1892. Muir, an exceptional human being, who truly matched his mountains, was on close terms with three presidents, as well as many writers and philosophers of the time; but it was on Theodore Roosevelt that he exerted his greatest influence. After a 1903 meeting with Muir at Yosemite, Roosevlet embarked on a course of action that established 148 million acres of National Forest, 5 National Parks, and 23 National Monuments during his term of office.

After 23 years of almost continual battle for preservation of Yosemite, and at the age of 75, Muir faced yet another challenge...that of preventing the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley. Another of nature's cathedrals was to be turned into a reservoir to supply San Francisco's water needs.

Muir, who spearheaded the fight against the dam, wrote a friend, "The battle for Hetchy is not yet lost. It is now raging in the Senate and I still hope we shall win. As to damning the dammers, they are damned already and buried beneath a roaring flood of lies".

In 1913, with Woodrow Wilson as President, the Secretary of the Interior was sympathetic to San Francisco's demands for water. On December 6, the Raker Act, allowing San Francisco to use Hetch Hetchy as a reservoir, passed the Senate, 43 to 25. Wilson signed the bill on December 19. San Francisco had won.

Bitter at the defeat, Muir wrote, "Not only was the bill's passage a monumental mistake, but a monumental crime".

John Muir did not live to witness the growth of the conservation movement through the uniting of aroused people who remembered the defeat of Hetch Hetchy, for in the still, cold dawn of December 24, 1913, his prophecy was fulfilled, "The mountains are calling me, and I must go". A grave in Martinez marks his final resting place, but his spirit lives in the Sierra Nevada.

Muir's home, aside from his beloved Sierra, was the Martinez adobe built by Don Ygnacio Martinez, a Spanish officer who came to Contra Costa County in 1849. The adobe was purchased in 1874 by Muir's father-in-law, Doctor John Strentzel. During the 1880's, Muir directed the operation of the ranch, which boasted vast orchards and vineyards. He became a successful horticulturalist during this time.

Five generations of Americans have owned the adobe since the Muir family. In 1955, it and the adjoining buildings were saved from destruction by another generation desiring to preserve all that was John Muir. The grounds and structure known as the "John Muir House" became property of the National Park Service in 1966. The picturesque, two-storied, many-windowed frame house, where Muir spent his final years working for the preservation of America's mountains and wilderness, overlooks highway 24 and Alhambra Avenue, the main thoroughfare into the city of Martinez. As a National Historic Site it is open to the public seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. The Adobe is open 1-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It offers changing displays that relate to the era of Muir and to the history of Contra Costa County.

On July 4, 1976, the California Historical Society and the San Jose Mercury News collaborated on naming the "Greatest Californian" living or dead. The honor went to John Muir.

SHORT NOTES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

William Penn Mott,Jr., a long time friend and supporter of the Park Council, has accepted the post of General Manager of the East Bay Botanical and Zoological Society. He has been working with the society on the expansion of the development of the 525 acre Knowland Park. Only a part of the land is utilized now for the Oakland Zoo.

Bill is very well qualified for this new challenge. He holds a master's degree in landscape architecture, and after serving as General Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District, he was Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation under Gov. Reagan. He has directed Moraga's Park and Recreation Autnority for the past 2 years.

Meanwhile, back in Moraga, James Grassi has been appointed by the Authority to be their new director. Jim worked many years for the East Bay Regional Park District and is competent and qualified to head Moraga's parks. On November 1st, the Authority will be dissolved, and the town of Moraga will appoint a Park and Recreation Commission. The town manager has assured everyone that Jim will be kept on as director.

The Audubon Chapter of the county is planning a general membership outing at Lafayette Reservoir in July. For details, call President Bruce Moorad, 938-4446 (home) or 938-9100 (office).

The California Native Plant Society reminds us that Senator Nejedly's Endangered California Plants Bill, SB 308, is going to the Assembly after the legislature's recess. It passed the Senate handily, but let your assemblyman know of your interest.

The Alexander Lindsay, Jr. Museum is raising its summer crop of orphans and foundlings - two winged and four footed ones, that is. Help them with the raising with supplies of old towels and cloths and with dollars for their dinners. Workers needed, too. Call the museum at 935-1970 for more information.

The Tule Elk are doing well in their new home at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in spite of poachers and other problems. Several calves have been born since their establishment in Concord last January. The Newsletter remembers a wonderful story told to us by a descendant of an early California family. The Tule Elk used to be so numerous on our shore line marshes in the mid nineteenth century that ships sailing up the channel had to stop to let the herd swim to the Solano shore line! Welcome back, Tule Elk, we've missed you!

The Regional Park District is in the process of buying Brown's Island - well, sort of. In a complex interchange with the State Lands Commission, the District will act in a "holding company" role for this channel island off Pittsburg. Most of the island is under water at high tide, but it has a handsome and rare complement of birds, plants, and small mammals. Its preservation is good news.

Morgan Territory again - and again - and we hope not again. Manny Lindner of the Park Council showed slides of fire road damage to Morgan Territory Landbank lands to the board of directors of the EBRPD recently. The Park Council worked with the District last year after "appalling damage" was done to meadows at the landbank by fire road work. Policies were worked out and were satisfactory to all sides, but regrading occurred again this spring to this property and to new additions. The Park Council hopes that the word has got through to all levels of the District that protection from fire need not mean destruction of landscape.

The Blackhawk fight has another suit. Filed in the Contra Costa County Superior Court at Martinez recently is a new suit by the Sierra Club and the Friends of Mt. Diablo who charged that the county supervisors improperly approved a boundary annexation of 122 acres of the development to the Central Sanitary District, while another boundary annexation was still pending in the First District Court of Appeal. The Sierra Club lawyers stated that Blackhawk Corporation had not requested expedition of the case and did not file its brief until five months after the Sierra Club's brief had been filed. According to the plaintiffs, "Blackhawk's brief was filed past the date of any extensions that had been granted by the court and was filed only after the court had sent it a notice indicating the court would decide the matter without Blackhawk's brief unless a brief was submitted forthwith."

Save America's Natural Environment Club (SANE) at Northgate High School in Walnut Creek has raised $3,402.23 and has donated it to Save Mt. Diablo for purchase of additional park land for Mt. Diablo State Park. It took the students six years to raise the money. Congratulations, SANE!

STATE TAKES CHARGE OF THE TAO HOUSE

from the Tri-Valley News

Title to Tao House has officially been passed from the Eugene O'Neill Foundation to the State of California, the result of a final agreement between the foundation and the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

The change of title is the result of long and intensive efforts to save this home of one of America's most illustrious playwrights.

As a result of 1976 legislation, authored and guided through the state legislature by Dan Boatwright, D-Concord, authorization was given for the use of $255,000 for the purchase of Tao House. With this transaction, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation relinquishes title to the home but remains resprosible for all operation and programming.

The home was also granted National Historic Site statur in 1976.

With the acquisition completed, the foundation directors are now working toward two major goals for the future: restoration of the home and short and long-term programming. Both require fundraising.

The agreement between the foundation and the state, given final approval recently by the state public works board, was possible through the good graces of Contra Costa County. Though no funds were required of the county to act as a backstop for the foundation, the state did require the county to be a party to the agreement. Under its terms, a program master plan must be submitted to the state for approval within one year of acquisition.

Within this framework, the foundation must match a $40,000 grant-in-aid for restoration, a historic preservation grant that must be matched dollar for dollar.

Program plans are being developed under the direction of Travis Bogard, U.C. Berkeley professor, the Tao House director of program development. To this end, Bogard has consulted with key theater people nationwide. They include Kristin Linkletter, founder and director of New York's Working Theater; George White, director of the Eugene O'Neill Center, Inc.in Connecticut; Arthur and Barbara Belb, co-authors of the biography "O'Neill," and Katharine Hepburn, who took a private tour of Tao House in February

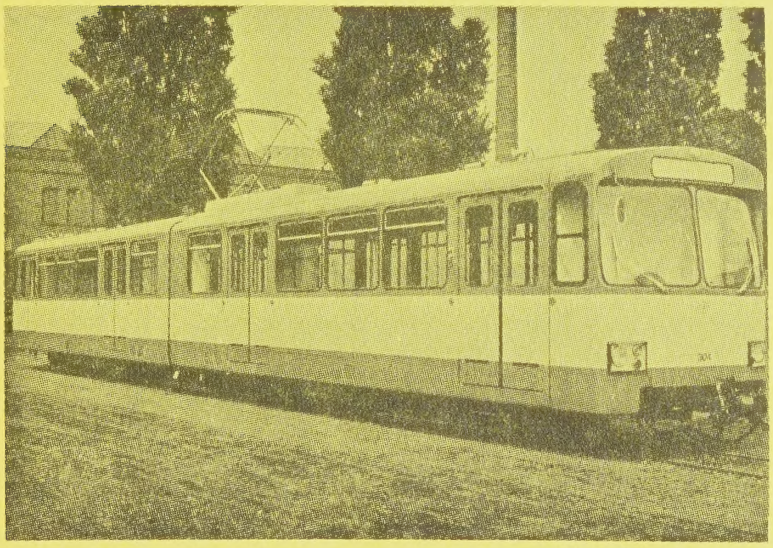
Though Tao house is now a National Historic Site, it is not open to the public except by appointment. Questions on touring the historic home may be referred to Darlene Blair, foundation president, at 935-4565 or Doris Omundson of the National Park Service at 228-8860.

COUNTY TO GET BETTER PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

by Patrick Whittle

Two recent announcements hold the promise of energy-saving improvements in the local mass-transit scene. The first, by Amtrak, is that daily passenger train service between the East Bay and Sacramento is expected to begin on or about August 19. Tentative departure times are as follows:

Train No. 712 - Oakland, 7:30 a.m., Richmond, 7:45, Martinez, 8:17, arriving Sacto 9:30.



Light-rail transit offers an energy-saving alternative to the automobile. Upper photo shows a Düwag articulated trolleycar, capable of rapid acceleration to 50 mph. Lower photo shows a diesel multiple-unit train with a top speed of 70 mph.

Train No. 713 - Sacto, 4:30 p.m., Martinez, 5:53, Richmond, 6:15, arriving Oakland 6:30.

A new station adjoining the BART station at Richmond will enable passengers to transfer conveniently to and from the BART system.

Other trains currently serving Contra Costa County are the San Joaquin Daylight and the San Francisco Zephyr. The Daylight departs Oakland daily at 9:30 a.m., stopping at Martinez 10:15 en route to Stockton and other points south to Bakersfield. Northbound, the Daylight stops at Martinez 5:05 p.m., arriving at Oakland 6:00 p.m. The Zephyr, a long-distance train, leaves Martinez eastbound at 1:45 p.m. and westbound at 2:20 p.m.

For information and reservations, you can call toll-free: (800) 648-3850. It would be particularly advisable to confirm the times of the new Sacto daily, once the service starts.

The second announcement regarding local transit is that a consultant retained by Caltrans has recommended use of the Southern Pacific San Ramon branchline for passenger service. Readers may recall that Senator Nejedly, Assemblyman Boatwright, and I have made similar suggestions in the past (see Park Council News, April-May 1974 issue, for example).

In a report for the legislature, the consultant recommends using German articulated trolleycars that can travel at 50 mph while making almost no moise and causing no pollution. He thinks that, because of cost considerations, a starter service might be limited to trolleys every 15 minutes during commute hours, running between Crow Canyon Road (San Ramon) and Pleasant Hill BART station. Later, the energy crisis might make it feasible to expand the service to a larger system covering the East Bay.

Costs of such a light-rail system would be very much less than those a heavy rail (metro) system like BART. Carl Englund, Jr., the consultant, estimates the initial cost of the starter service at $33 million, excluding land acquisition. This cost would include a completely new track and additional protection of crossings. Upgrading the present track would cut costs to $19 million.

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE PARK COUNCIL

Ed Gustely of Moraga has taken over as President of the Park Council. Ed is a long time resident of Moraga and was one of the "founding fathers" of Moraga's Park and Recreation Authority. He is especially familiar with local park service dirtricts and their problems and will be making the Park Council aware of these issues. Congratulations, Ed! Manny Lindner will take over Ed's former duties as Treasurer, while Susan Watson moves to the Newsletter. Pat Whittle will remain Editor-in Chief of the Newsletter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HIKING SCHEDULE FOR JULY

July 30, Saturday
Limited to 25 persons. Jeannie Harmon (call her for reservations at 685-4393) will lead a 2B late afternoon-moonlight hike to Panoramic Ridge in Briones Park. Bring bag supper and liquids. Meet at Bear Creek parking lot at 6:30 PM.

BOOK REVIEWS

1) The second of a planned series of soft cover guide books by Charles A. Bohakel has arrived at the Park Council's post box. Last year, we were delighted with *Mt. Diablo, the Devil Mountain of California.* This year, Mr. Bohakel has written *The Indians of Contra Costa County,* a history of the Costanoan and Yokuts Indians.

This new guide book is printed in a large format (8½ x 11) and has over 40 historical photographs and diagrams. The author is working on his Ph. D. in Western American history at California State University at Hayward and at Holy Names College.

His enthusiasm for his subject is contagious, and we warn you that once you read his guidebooks, you will be looking for more! Highly recommended, and the price is right - $2.50, postpaid, each. Write to Charles A. Bohakel, P.O. Box 817, Antioch, CA 94509.

2) Norman Weeden writes us that his botanic guide, *A Survival Handbook to Sierra Flora,* is now being marketed by Wilderness Press. This great little book is the handiest botanic guide we know offered for the Sierra. Its's fine for most of our local areas as well. The Newsletter reviewed this book last summer, and *Fremontia,* the authoritative journal of the California Native Plant Society, reviewed it in its January 1977 issue. At your local bookstore, $6.95.

3) We usually stay with local issues and books, but here is a book that ranges all over the West and is just too good to miss. Don Lowe of Portland, Oregon, enters the ranks of major nature photographers with his new exhibit format book, *Alpine Country of the West.* High mountain areas of eight Western states are the subjects of over 100 magnificent color photographs of technical and artistic excellence. Whether you are a mountain enthusiast or an armchair book lover, don't miss this photography book of the year - incredibly beautiful! David Sumner's sensitive text at the end is just right. For gifts or to keep for yourself. Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., Portland, Oregon. $22.00. (P.S. There is a photograph taken on Mt. Diablo, but we'll let you find it for yourself!)

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Park Council News

MT. DIABLO:

Devastation or Regeneration?

by Mary L. Bowerman

The recent holocaust on Mount Diablo, with its attendant bare, burnt, ash-covered slopes, may actually be nature's way of renewing plant life. We live in a region with hot dry summers where uncontrolled fires sweep the landscape periodically. Lightning took its toll, or played its role, down through the centuries.

How does fire affect the vegetation? Is everything in the path of the flames destroyed? Should we all rush out to our favorite mountain to replant it? Or get busy planting seeds and caring for the seedlings until they are big enough to transplant and fend for themselves? No, indeed, this is not necessary. Mother nature, left to her own devices, can and will restore the mountain to its former glory. But it will take time. Much time in some places.

First, let us consider the different types of plant community on Mt. Diablo. The least affected by fire is the open grassland. The ash from the burned tops acts as a fertilizer, so that, the following spring, the grasslands are more lush than usual (assuming a normal rainfall).

What of the woodland trees? On Mt. Diablo, oaks of several kinds are the most prominent and the most numerous. Each of the ten kinds has its own niche, where the environmental factors of sun or shade, rain, and temperature are to its liking.

But here we are concerned with the effect of fire on those which form the woodlands. The least damaging to the trees is the ground fire, which may result from natural causes or from a man-made, controlled backfire. Such a fire usually does not damage the trees nor the roots of the perennial plants beneath. Damage is minor. A year later, signs of the fire may be almost obliterated.

A fire in the crown of the trees does more damage. The leaves may be scorched and the tree may appear to be dead; but if the cambium layer, the growth layer beneath the bark, has not been killed, the tree will send out new growth along the main branches of the crown. Before long, the tree resumes its normal appearance. Sometimes the fire is so hot that both the crown and trunk are killed. Yet, in such a case, oaks often send up new shoots from ground level. This, they did after a fire on the south side of the summit a few years ago. A shrubby stage then ensues.

Some trees, of course, may be killed outright, sometimes burned through at the base. Digger pines seem to be especially susceptible to fire and are often killed. Perhaps the resin in the needles and bark is a causative factor.

Many of the steeper slopes that have just been burned were covered with a dense, impenetrable thicket of shrubs which, here in California, we call chaparral (from the Spanish, chaparro, an oak). Over the years, dead branches and ground litter accumulate beneath the chaparral, with the result that a very hot fire is created.

Parts of the chaparral above ground are killed. Sometimes dead blackened branches remain standing. Sometimes the fire consumes everything above the ground. Chaparral regenerates from fire in two ways. Some kinds of shrubs are killed outright, but these produce seeds which germinate freely after fire so that they soon cover the slopes again.

However, they do not always re-establish themselves. Examples are Mount Diablo Parry and big-berry manzanitas. The Mount Diablo and Parry manzanitas grow in an area on the south side which was not burned in this fire. Many, perhaps most, of

Contra Costa Park Council is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions ($2 a year for students; $5 a year and up for individuals; $10 a year and up for organizations) are tax-deductible.

the big-berry manzanitas have been burned. On the serpentine rocks in Donner Canyon, these plants had attained tree size and were magnificent specimens 25 feet high. Fire had not swept through this canyon for many, many years, probably not since the turn of the century. This was the most fragile, choicest, and most vulnerable area. The best remaining specimens of big-berry manzanita are thought to be on the ridge east of Donner Canyon, on a parcel not in Mt. Diablo State Park.

Another type of manzanita, and chamise, grow again after fire, not by reseeding, but by "stump-sprouting." The tops of the shrubs are killed, but the roots survive the hottest fires. These plants have an enlarged rootcrown or woody platform at and below soil level, from which new shoots arise following a fire, usually not until the following spring.

Chamise, a member of the rose family bearing a myriad of small white flowers in June, is the dominant shrub in much of the chaparral on Mount Diablo, especially on the south side. Following fire, chamise reproduces not only by stump-sprouting but by seed as well. As many as 130 seedlings were counted on one square foot of ground after the 1931 fire. Normally, however, it is the original stump-sprouting shrubs of chamise which regain dominance and not the seedlings. (Shrubs with a well developed root system can grow more rapidly than seedlings and can tolerate more adverse conditions.)

In mature dense stands of chaparral, there is little undergrowth. But, following fire, the soil is open to the sky and much of it, initially, bare. It is here that nature's miracle takes place. Seeds which have lain dormant, ten, twenty, perhaps fifty years come to life. They sprout with the first rains and soon thickly clothe the vacant spaces between the roots of the chaparral shrubs.

Next spring some of these hillsides should be yellow with whispering bells or with monolopia. These are annual species which cover chaparral burns by their millions but which are uncommon between fires. They flourish for two or three years, then disappear as the stump-sprouting shrubs grow and regain dominance over the area.

In some areas the California poppy may be more abundant than usual. In more shaded woody areas the wind poppy may be more abundant than usual. The latter sometimes is so abundant that patches of scarlet are visible from afar.

The extensive 1931 fire was mostly on the south side of Mount Diablo. The chaparral on the outer face of the Black Hills was burned. This year's fire started on the north side and was stopped before it reached the Black Hills. Both fires swept through Mitchell Canyon, which is on the north side, south of the town of Clayton. The lower part of the canyon was a recent addition to the state park and was opened to the public last May. Those who had the opportunity to visit it in the spring or early summer will remember how beautiful it was.

In 1931, the oaks in Mitchell Canyon were badly burned, a fact certainly not apparent 46 years later, nor indeed, for many years before that. In 1932, the ground vegetation in Mitchell Canyon was rank. By May, elderberry had produced new shoots from the roots five feet tall. On the canyon floor, a wild onion, the fairy lantern or yellow globe lily, wind poppy, and Chinese houses were common. Later in the year, in the summer, the common yellow and the rare red monkey-flower were exceptionally abundant along the stream.

Will history repeat itself in 1978? Perhaps not. The red monkey-flower may not be there. And the reason is activity of *Homo sapiens*—perhaps he is not so wise, after all. The large trees along Mitchell Creek are all right. The crowns were not burned. And most of those on the lower slopes of the adjoining hillsides will pull through.

What then is the trouble? Bulldozers! In a hasty and valiant effort to create a firebreak and halt the spread of the fire, the creek and the adjacent flood plain were chewed up, - there is no other word to describe it. Much of the ground is bare and hummocky, with piles of loose soil and gravel. Although the large major trees were left, small ones and undergrowth were stripped away. Work must be done on the creek, which is blocked in places; and bulldozers or other equipment should level the hummocks and restore as nearly as they can to the original contour.

Detailed study may reveal certain small areas, where to prevent erosion, landslides or flooding, experts may determine that some planting of kinds native to the area is necessary. Raw, disturbed land is always re-vegetated, but the plants in the beginning may not be the same as the original ones. California poppy may find such raw areas to its liking. Some of the original plants will grow again if the roots are still in place. (It is difficult to predict the bulldozer damage.)

Restoration of the flora can only be accomplished by mother nature. It is not a job for man.

Mary L. Bowerman's studies of the flowers and vegetation of Mt. Diablo resulted in a Ph.D. degree from the University of California and book entitled, "The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California" which was published in 1944 and is currently out of print.

She is now vice president of a citizens group known as Save Mt. Diablo which has been raising funds for several years to buy additional land to be added to Mt. Diablo State Park. This group has raised $90,000 and is responsible for the addition of 117 acres to the state park.

MT. DIABLO:
DEVASTATION OR REGENERATION,
by Mary L. Bowerman

The above article is reproduced by courtesy of HERE'S DIABLO LIVING. The Park Council is deeply grateful to editor Lillian Miller Bernstein, who kindly permitted us to use Dr. Bowerman's article from the September 1977 issue. Dr. Bowerman is a member, and was formerly a director of, the Park Council.

HULET HORNBECK

NATIONAL HONORS FOR CONTRA COSTANS

Hulet C. Hornbeck--land acquisition chief of the East Bay Regional Park District and former president of the Park Council--was elected vice-president of the prestigious National Trails Council at the 4th Annual National Symposium on Trails in North Carolina this September. Hulet joins representatives of nationwide trail-user organizations and outstanding trail systems in leadership of the NTC.

George H. Cardinet, Jr., a former director of the Park Council, continues as a member of the NTS's executive committee.

The NTC was organized at the first symposium of trails, called together in Washington, D.C., in 1971 by the US Departments of Interior and Agriculture to advance the development of the national trail system. Both Hulet and George were founding directors of the NTC.

Included in the national system is the 25-mile East Bay Skyline National Recreation Trail, which runs high on the Oakland-Berkeley Hills from El Sobrante to Castro Valley. Most of the trail goes through EBRPD parks and preserves. It is the first of the 117 trails in the US that are not federally owned to be designated as a part of the national system.

Hulet has headed the Land and Water Acquisition Department since the function was set apart as a major department in 1965. He is a life-long conservationist and outdoorsman. Along with being the "architect" of the 70-mile regional trails system linking parks, he regularly hikes on the 400-plus miles of trails within the parks. He received a law degree from Rutgers University in his native New Jersey after serving in aerial combat with the US Air Force in the Pacific during World War II and studying forestry at the University of Maine. His wife, Mary Lynn, teaches at John Muir Elementary School in Martinez.

George Cardinet, East Bay native and long-time Contra Costan, is a noted horseman and trailsman. Active with the Mt. Diablo Horseman's Association, he has represented Region 5 of the California Horseman's Association and served as CHSA's president. He helped to found the East Bay Area Trails Council, in the development of the regional trails system. George has been EBRPD's Horseman of the Year. Last year, he helped to organize--and personally rode much of the way with--the re-creation of the DeAnza expedition and the bicentennial cross-continental ride.

The Park Council congratulates both Hulet and George on honors well deserved.

NEW ENERGY EXPERIMENTS AT CONTRA LOMA

A bank of aluminum reflectors, 56 ft by 8 ft, constructed into the roof, facing due south at a 55-degree angle, is providing heating and hot water for EBRPD's multi-purpose building at Contra Loma Regional Park near Antioch. The installation costs have been nearly $15,000.

Officially opened last May 21, the solar plant, built with the cooperation of PG&E, gives homeowners the opportunity to see the operation of a solar energy system and discover the virtues and possible pitfalls of an everyday home-sized use of the sun as a primary source of power.

The reflectors, looking like narrow louvres, are parabolic so as to focus the greatest concentration of the sun's rays onto black tubing that runs in front of the reflectors. Water is heated as it circulates through the black tubing; then it goes to a 1000-gallon storage and "heat exchanger" tank. From there, hot water runs in copper pipes installed in concrete floors of the building.

The sunshine is expected to provide up to 70% of the annual heating and hot water bills, but a backup system to be used in extremely cloudy periods is fueled by propane. (Contra Loma has no natural gas service.)

The hot water supply is in a separate but integrated system heated by the 1000-gallon tank, and has as electrical back up.

Monitoring devices and interpretive display are to be installed by P.G. & E. shortly.

The News toured this facility and was impressed by its outside appearance - tasteful - and by its inside apparatus - bulky. It would be hard to fit such appliances into the standard house. At this time, solar power appears to be more efficient in larger buildings. We believe, though, that this modern use of an old form of energy will become more practical for homes shortly, as interest and new ideas build up.

The public may also see the wind-power testing devices installed by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory scientist Dr. Bill Porch. He will collect data from a wind monitoring station for several months to see if a wind-powered generator would be feasible in this location.

The monitoring station is located in the northeast corner of the park, near the dam, where the wind blows about twice as hard as it does 200 yards away. Sea breezes sweeping in from the heating of air in the Central Valley cause tremendous shifts of air through the Delta "funnels". The smooth surface of Contra Loma lake and its cool temperature help to funnel wind into the park.

COAL MINE WALK OPENED TO PUBLIC

The cavernous sand-silica tunnels of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve will be opened to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning in October.

All underground walkers must be accompanied by a naturalist or other staff representative of the Park District. Reservations are required. Each mine walker must wear a fitted hard hat, carry a light, and check in and out at the entrance.

"The route is clearly established, but there are caverns and endless-looking passages going off on either side that might be too tempting to the over-zealous and the young," Richard C. Trudeau, Park District General Manager, said.

Besides the sand-silica mines, the 3,343-acres Regional Preserve has miles of sealed, unsafe coal mines. The park also offers ghost-town sites, and a cemetery dating back to the mining days of the past century, geological formations "pointing" to nearby volcanic-upthrust Mt. Diablo, abundant wild animals, and a profusion of native California plants.

"This will become another of our major centers for teaching and research - for the public, schools, colleges and universities," Trudeau promised.

Black Diamond Preserve Supervisor-Naturalist Joanne Dean is accepting reservations for the weekend mine walks at the Park offices in adjacent Contra Loma Regional Park (phone 757-2620). Set for 2 PM on Saturdays and 9:30 AM on Sundays, the walks are limited to groups of 20.

'TESTING' UNDERGROUND MINES WALK - The cavernous, black "nature walk" through abandoned sand-silica operations at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, south of Antioch, California is a rare "environmental" experience. (Left to right) John Waters of EBRPD's planning and design staff, who planned and developed the mine opening, is quizzed on the myriad safety factors by Sierra Clubber Mrs. Stewart (Kay) Madin, Orinda, Mrs. Robert S. Watson (Susan) of Orinda, representing the Contra Costa Park Council, and Richard C. Trudeau, General Manager of EBRPD.

UPDATE OF THE PERIPHERAL CANAL

Senator Ruben Ayala's legislation, SB 346, on the Peripheral Canal cleared the Senate handily in Spring, but had a twisted course through the Assembly this September. It passed this house, with our local Assemblymen dissenting, but ran into trouble during the last hours of this session, when the Senate refused to accept some of the Assembly amendments.

Northern legislators felt that northern California interests were not really taken care of, and southern San Joaquin legislators were concerned that they would not get enough water, especially in dry years.

The legislation is very much alive, and will be considered again next year. Park Council News carried several articles on the Canal and related water-transfer issues in 1975-1976, commenting in conclusion "that fresh water - not oil, not gold - is the most precious substance on earth." The News ran a brief summary on this complex legislation in the Summer issue. Space stops us from going into greater detail at this time. If our readers request more information on this vital issue, we will carry it next issue.

On a recent survey of Environmental groups, the News found that Friends of the Earth, Environmental Defense Fund, and Save the Bay Association were "vigorously" opposed to SB 346 as not guaranteeing the quality of the Bay-Delta system. The Mt. Diablo Regional Group of the Sierra Club opposed SB 346 at the Regional Conservation Committee meeting at Monterey in September, but the Regional Conservation Committees voted to support the bill and committed the Sierra Club to the position (angry Sierra Clubbers can write to the home office!). The local Regional Group's position is neutral, but they will abide by the majority decision of the Club.

Contra Costa County has led the fight against more water export for years and has done a commendable job in acquainting the public with the problems of this mammoth project to complete the shipment of northern California waters south. We encourage readers to contact their supervisor's or legislator's office, the Mt. Diablo Regional Group of the Sierra Club (P. O. Box 4457, Walnut Creek, 94596) or the other organizations (consult the telephone directory) for clarification or comment. Remember that it is your water that may be going south.

THE "RIDGELANDS REPORT" GOES TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

After nearly a year in preparation, the multi-jurisdictional report on preserving the ridgelands was presented to the County supervisors, who referred it to the Planning Commission and to the Recreation and Natural Resources Commission.

The study to preserve the remaining ridgelands in three counties was undertaken largely through the efforts of Supervisor Joseph Bort of Alameda County and of Margaret Tracy of Livermore, president of PARC (Preserve Area Ridgelands Committee).

In 1974, Congressman Fortney Stark introduced legislation in Congress calling for a feasibility study by the Department of Interior for the establishment of a National Park or Recreation Area in the East Bay ridgelands. When it became apparent that the large federal expenditures creating the Golden Gate National Recreation Area probably precluded the expenditure of more funds for the East Bay, the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the East Bay Regional Park District proposed a study involving Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties, the Association of Bay Area Governments, BOR, and EBRPD to find ways of preserving the scenic open qualities of the ridgelands in the 3 counties.

A Citizens Committee, composed of representatives of all interests in these lands, worked with the staffs of the counties and the agencies. Genevieve Sattler, a founding member of Save Mt. Diablo and a long time Park Council member, represented some environmentalist interests. Joyce Burr, a highly knowledgeable and articulate conservationist and present chairwoman of the Recreation and Natural Resources Commission, was also a member.

The report recommends that the local governments and agencies refine their existing varied methods of land preservation in order to use these tools more effectively. Public acquisition is necessary for areas needed for public recreation, and both the EBRPD and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department have adopted master plans that they are in the process of implementing.

EBRPD has now 22,921.9 acres in Contra Costa County. Much of this land is in the area defined as ridgelands. However, as the report points out, the amount of land that the park districts will be able to acquire in the future is small compared to the total amount of land in private holdings. The report recognizes the fact that most ridgeland will remain in private ownership.

The report also points out that, although the most appropriate open space use for these private lands is grazing, ranching "is generally a difficult and uncertain enterprise at best." Governments must be sensitive to the problems of ranchers and must try to minimize those problems whenever possible -- to which the Park Council says "amen!" We have long pointed out the costs - economic, social, and environmental - of continued urban sprawl. We have also drawn attention to the problems of the rancher in counties undergoing urbanization. The Park Council hopes that the ridgelands study's recommendations for protection of this precious resource and for tax reform measures in favor of their owners will be widely supported and adopted.

Meanwhile, cities in particular continue to nibble away at the ridgelands, creating monstrous problems for themselves in the future and, in the process, degrading everyones's interests.

Copies of the summary may be obtained from the county, city clerks, or the Regional Park District.

WELCOME TO CONTRA COSTA COSTAL CORRIDOR PARKS!

This summer, a party was held in the charming grounds of the Old Fernandez House in Pinole to introduce the project of the new group, Contra Costa Coastal Corridor Parks.

This enthusiastic group wants to create a shoreline trail from Point Pinole Regional Park to Martinez and to have small parks - and perhaps large parks - along this scenic route.

Their proposals are being met with great interest by citizens and public officials. Write to Contra Costa Costal Corridor Parks, P.O. Box 226, Pinole, CA 94564 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HIKING SCHEDULE

Hiking is under the direction of the Mt. Diablo Group of the Sierra Club. All are welcome. Please bring lunch and liquids unless directed otherwise.

October 29 - Family hike

Meet Tom Torlakson (757-2379) 10 AM in the Contra Loma Parking lot for a 1B family hike in Black Diamond Mines Park.

November 12 - Family hike

Meet Joe Hipple (939-0286) 9 AM at the P&X parking lot (Taylor and Pleasant Hill Road). Hike on newly opened trails in Briones Regional Park.

November 5 - Hiking

Meet Jeannie Harmon (685-4393) at 8:30 AM at Mt. Diablo State Park Headquarters (junction N & S Gate Roads) for 2B hike into Dan Cook Canyon and Curry Point.

November 6 - Hiking

Meet Harry Reeves (625-3612) at 9 AM at Walnut Creek BART station for a 1B scramble up Shell Ridge.

November 26 - Moonlight Hike

Call Otto Haubensak (939-8608) for reservations (35 max.) for a 1B moonlight hike on Rocky Ridge.

December 3 - Hiking

Meet Rich Sexton (757-6991) at Mitchell Canyon parking lot 8 AM for strenuous 3C hike in Mitchell and Donner Canyons.

December 10 - Hiking

Meet Joe Hipple (939-0286) at 9 AM at Calle Vista Stage Area (1 mile west of Moraga on Canyon Road) for a 2A hike at Upper San Leandro Reservior.

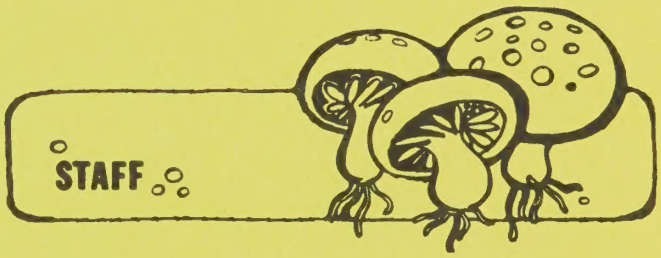
CENTRAL COUNTY SUCCESS STORY

Over a year ago, the Newsletter noted that HERE'S DIABLO LIVING was to begin publication in June 1976. We are happy to report that this delightful central county monthly magazine is enjoying a great success. The magazine frequently has outdoor articles that are of interest to those of us who enjoy parks and recreation.

Dr. Mary L. Bowerman's article, reprinted here by permission, shows the quality and pertinence of the writing in this publication. The original has sensitive photographs of the burned areas of Mitchell Canyon taken by Editor Lillian Miller Bernstein.

In the same September issue, there is an article on the Martinez Adobe, part of the John Muir Estate in Martinez. Frank Valle-Riestra, Park Council member and Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association officer, frequently writes a "trail of the month" column. October's issue carries an article on the opening of the mine tunnels at Black Diamond Mine Regional Preserve.

Twelve thousand magazines are distributed in Central Contra Costa County, and 1,100 copies go to new Contra Costa residents each month via City Hostess Service and Courtesy Calls. It is available at no cost from advertisers, Chamber of Commerce, city offices, recreation centers, community centers, and many banks. Copies run out fast, but you can have yours home delivered by subscription at $7.50 per year. Write to Here's Publications, 2089 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek, 94596.



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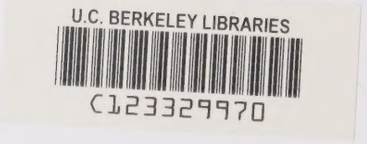

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